

SENATOR CROSBY: I really turned on my light before the last amendment, because I was looking for...but I did want to understand this one. I did want to just rebut a little to Senator Hall about the microwaves. I use mine every day, Senator Hall. (Laughter.) I use all kinds of things. I remember James Thurber's story about things that go bump in the night, and he had an aunt who went around putting light bulbs into empty sockets because she thought electricity came out at you. I understand what you're saying. But the thing about the video slots and all those machine things, to me, is that it is so mindless. And I think that's why a lot of us resist those kind of things, because if it's a harmless game of bingo, or where you buy a pickle card once in a while to help a charity, that's one thing. But where you stand in front of a machine, I just never do understand that mentality that enjoys that kind of thing. And I know people do. I'm not being critical, necessarily, but that's just the one thing I wanted to say, that I think one of the reasons a lot of us resist all that is because of the video slots, and the old one-armed bandits, and all those things, and the slot machines are mindless. And the video games that children play are fun for a little while, but we hope they don't sit there forever and forget about reading and other things that are a lot of fun and that do something for your mind instead of blanking your mind out. So thanks, Senator Will, for explaining the sales tax, and thank you, Senator Hall, for reminding me, I'll use my microwave again tonight just to be sure I don't forget how.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, it's always unfortunate on this floor when the Legislature gets into a lighthearted mood, because then we have a tendency to treat serious issues in a nonserious manner. I contrast the votes on the Smith amendment with the votes on the Hall amendment, and I find a peculiar situation. I find people who are traditionally opposed to gambling who have said, in effect, we do not care whether there are illegal pickles sold in this state or not, that is fine, we want to continue that. We are announcing up front, ladies and gentlemen, that we really don't care. Once this Legislature has taken that kind of position, that is a green light to the bootleggers. Now I did not have the privilege of seeing the letter, May 21st, that was written by Mr. Hirsch to Senator Smith. I understand it may have been passed out, but it's certainly an oversight that I didn't get